

Kess, Quinn

From: Rich Nace <rfnhome@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 3:43 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Subject: Law against cycling two abreast - Bad Idea!!!

I'm writing to protest the proposed legislation against cycling two abreast in CT. I'm an avid cyclist and CT taxpayer. I don't know who proposed this absurd law or the reasons behind it but if enacted, it would make group cycling nearly impossible in CT.

I often ride in groups of 10 or more and we always try to ride single file and out of the way of cars whenever possible, although by law we have the same road rights as cars, motorcycles, etc.

When riding in groups cyclists use a "pace line," and alternate the lead rider because he or she is doing 30% more work due to wind resistance. When the lead rider breaks off, that person must let the group pass by, requiring that for this brief time period there are two riders abreast. This is how cycling has been done for over 100 years. It's a fundamental part of the sport. To ban two abreast riding would make group riding impossible and would be a major disincentive to ride in CT. We have great roads and people come here just to ride. It would also make charity rides, which raise millions of dollars a year for MS, cancer, autism, etc. impossible to do.

Why would we want to discourage a pollution free sport that is getting more popular each year? My guess is that this bill has been proposed by somebody who knows nothing about the sport and perhaps is one of those car or truck drivers who feel they own the road and have a "get out of my way" mentality. I can tell you it's the opposite in Europe. Cyclists are treated with the same respect as anybody else on the road.

Please, please do not enact this law. It's regressive and would be an embarrassment to the state of CT. It would kill charity rides.

Lastly, if this ban is enacted it would also have to apply to pedestrians and anybody else not on a motor vehicle or would violate the equal protection clause of the US Constitution. You can't single out cyclists. The "three foot rule" applies to cyclists and pedestrians alike and all must be treated fairly and equally.

Yours,

Richard F. Nace, Jr., Esq.
Madison, CT

Sent from my iPad